Coal Scam through linked consumers

*151. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Coal India Limited has admitted coal scam through linked coal consumers leading to huge losses; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to curb the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) adopts a cash and carry system for the non core sector. No losses are incurred by CIL on sale of coal to the non-core sector.

(b) The Department of Coal has initiated a process of verification of the bonafides of all non core sector consumers of coal. This has been done in co-operation with the respective State Governments and the Vigilance Agencies. So far, as on 1.6.2002, 3658 number of coal consumers have been verified and coal supplies to 330 linked consumers have been discontinued on the basis of adverse verification reports.

Production of Bio-Diesel and Edible Oil from wasteland

*152. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned, "Producing bio-diesel on wasteland" and "Drought-tolerant tree for wastelands" which apeared in 'The Hindu' on the 15th and 20th June, 2002;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that as per scientists, the development of 30 million hectares of wasteland can be a source of employment and a boon in manufacture of bio-diesel or good quality edible oil; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to make it a really?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources are carrying out a Policy Analytical Study on utilisation of Ethanol Blends and other bio-fuels in Petrol and Diesel Vehicles. The Study is expected to

make a review of technology regarding use of ethanol and deviation in motor fuels, their economic and financial cost benefit analysis, their availability etc.

2. Plantation of trees, including bio-fuel plantations (Non-edible oilseed bearing trees) and edible oilseed bearing trees on wastelands/degraded lands is an important activity under the ongoing Watershed Development Programmes, namely the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme, the Drought Prone Areas Programme and the Desert Development Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Mine Accidents

†*153. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mine labourers trapped and killed in different mines of the country during the last three months;

(b) the amount of compensation paid to next of kin of the deceased killed in coal mines accidents during the above period; and

(c) the additional security measures taken to ensure the safety ot mining work?

THE MINSTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The number of mine workers killed in different mine accidents in the country during the last three months is as under:—

Mineral type	Number of workers killed in mine accidents during April to June, 2002
Coal	24
Non-coal	21
All minerals	45

(b) The amount of compensation paid under the Workmen's compensation Act to the dependents of persons who lost their lives in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.